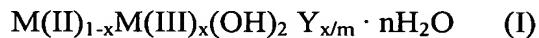


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (New): A layered double hydroxide of formula (I),



wherein, Y is an anion of an organic fluorine compound having a fluorocarbon chain, and a valence number of m,

M(II) is a divalent metal ion,

M(III) is a trivalent metal ion,

X is 0.1 to 0.5, and

n is a positive integer,

wherein the layered double hydroxide is a solid obtained by

adding one or more divalent and trivalent metal salts to a solution comprising the organic fluorine compound having a fluorocarbon chain to precipitate the layered double hydroxide wherein the layered double hydroxide has the fluorine compound present between layers, and

separating the precipitate by solid-liquid separation.

Claim 13 (New): The hydroxide according to claim 12, wherein, M(II) is a divalent ion of Mg or Ca, and M(III) is a trivalent ion of Al or Fe.

Claim 14 (New): The hydroxide according to claim 12, wherein Y is an anion of a carboxylic acid or sulfonic acid having a fluorocarbon chain having more than 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 15 (New): The hydroxide according to claim 12, wherein the hydroxide is a resource to reuse the fluorine compound.

Claim 16 (New): The hydroxide according to claim 12, wherein X=1/3, m=1, and the formula of the hydroxide is:



Claim 17 (New): The hydroxide according to claim 16, wherein, M(II) is a divalent ion of Mg or Ca, and M(III) is a trivalent ion of Al or Fe.

Claim 18 (New): The hydroxide according to claim 16, wherein Y is an anion of a carboxylic acid or a sulfonic acid having a fluorocarbon chain having more than 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (New): The hydroxide according to claim 16, wherein the hydroxide is a resource to reuse the fluorine compound.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 12-19 are active in the present application. Claims 1-11 have been canceled.

Claims 12-19 are new claims. Support for new Claim 12 is found in original Claim 2.

Support for new Claims 13 and 17 is found in original Claim 5 and in Examples 4 and 5.

Support for new Claims 14 and 18 is found in original Claim 7. Support for new Claims 15 and 19 is found in original Claim 4 and in the last sentence of paragraph [0081] of U.S. 2002/0183570 A1 (the published U.S. Application corresponding to the parent application; copy attached for the Examiner's convenience). Support for new Claim 16 is found in paragraph [0051] of U.S. 2002/0183570 A1 wherein the value x is disclosed as 0.33.

This application is a Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 10/088,073 filed on June 12, 2002, now pending.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.

An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
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Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 50,238

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000  
Fax. (703) 413-2220

NFO:SUK:la:aps